

Parish of Saint Conval - Weekly Bulletin

7th Sunday of Easter (A) 23rd / 24th May 2020

Parish of Saint Conval, Greenfarm Road, Linwood PA3 3HB
T: 01505 323751 E: stconval@rcdop.org.uk W: stconvals.com
Parish Priest: Canon Michael McMahon



Please Pray For Those Who Are Sick: Maria Devlin and for those who are working so hard to care for the sick especially those who work in our hospitals.

Please Pray For Those Who Have Died Recently: Elizabeth Martin (Family Funeral Tuesday Morning), Mary Ferguson (Family Funeral Tuesday Afternoon), Mary Donnelly, Said Allan and William McGuire.

Please Pray For Those Whose Anniversaries Occur About Now: Jim Tollan, William McAdam, Gerard Lavery, James Lowrie, Thomas McElhinney, Bridget Smith, Hugh Keevins, Robert Flood and for the month's mind of Willie McKenna, Annabella MacFarlane (nee McElhoney), Ann McAdam and Annie Muggins.

In The House Porch there are copies of the Bulletin, Mass Sheets, Standing Order Forms, Gift Aid Declaration Forms and Special Donation Envelopes.

Fr. Michael Will Celebrate Mass Alone Each Day praying for the members of the Parish Community and their intentions. Fr. Michael is still available in emergencies but is observing the Government's advice on social distancing.

Fr. Michael Will Take Several Minutes Each Day to reflect on the Scriptures and his Reflections will be available on "St. Conval's Church Linwood" You Tube Channel.

St. Mirin's Cathedral And Local Parishes are livestreaming their privately celebrated Masses:
St. Mirin's Cathedral, Paisley - Visit: <https://tinyurl.com/qv7uqhl>
St. Charles', Paisley - Visit: <https://tinyurl.com/r2gww7a>
St. Margaret's, Johnstone - Visit: <https://tinyurl.com/qv5wde5>

May Devotions: If we are not in the habit of saying a daily rosary then perhaps we can start the devotion, even praying one decade a day. We ask Our Lady as Help of the Sick, to pray for us and with us in our present need.

Online Parish Offertory Portal: The Diocese is keen that Parishes manage a form of fund raising in these challenging days. Bearing in mind your other important responsibilities, they have designed a pathway for more casual donations for those without gift aid and not wishing to commit to a standing order. You can now pay any amount to the Parish and make a donation with your debit or credit card using the portal (which is centrally administered by the Diocese) via the link on the Diocesan website homepage, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/y9r2dlcc> and thus make a donation to the Parish without obligation and in that sort of form for which we are able to do for all types of cases and causes.

Broadcasts From The Church: When the Pandemic first struck, Fr. Michael, together with a great many of you, thought that this would last a month or two and like a very nasty Winter Flu' it would leave us in peace soon enough - how wrong we were! At the moment it looks like this will be with us in some form for many months to come and we will have to live with it and adapt our behaviours accordingly. When lockdown occurred some Parishes immediately moved to streaming Mass from the Sanctuary of the Church, the Kitchen Table or some Side Altar. Fr. Michael thought that there was ample provision and that to duplicate this was not valuable in the short term. He embarked therefore upon a Daily Reflection on the Scriptures (his area of expertise) from the Lectionary for Mass. The fact that we are still some way from the Public Celebration of Mass in our Churches and very far from being able to gather for a Sunday

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Mass together - and even if that were possible in some limited manner - there are those in the Parish who, because of health issues, would be strongly advised not to mix with others for the foreseeable future.

So having investigated the costs of equipping the Church for broadcasting Mass and other services Fr. Michael thought, at that point, that the costs were too great given our financial situation. In the light of ongoing events he has re-evaluated that decision and in discussion with technical experts decided that this is the moment to build for and protect the future of our Parish and the Pastoral care of our elderly and infirm for the next few months and years and go ahead with the installation of the required equipment.

The negotiated 'mates rates' cost of this is £1,800 - Wow! SO, Fr. Michael made a few calls to friends in business with generous hearts and has managed to raise half of the figure already (in 48 hours!). This leaves him to appeal to you, the ever generous Parishioners of St. Conval's with the request to make donations to cover the final £900. Money is short for us all at the moment so, bearing in mind your other responsibilities, can I appeal to your generosity? This is a project which brings us firmly into the 21st Century in time of Pandemic and is a way to ensure the Public Celebration of Mass for you all - albeit one at which, for the moment, you can only be 'virtually present'!

It may be also that you know people who use the services of the Parish and intend to do so for Family Celebrations in the future, who are nominally Catholic and expect the Parish to be here for Funerals, Baptisms, celebrations of First Communions etc., etc. but who never support the Parish to which they claim to belong - remind them of their obligation to support their Parish. The Parish is always there for them when they need it, will they be there for the Parish when we need it? If Fr. Michael does this, it's always a 'Big Deal' with the Canon wielding a big stick, but these are members of your families and a wise word from their Granny or their Father might be most appropriate! Without their support now, there will be no Parish for their future. More and more of our lives are moving online, into Social Media and electronic media, St. Conval's needs to be there too - in the 'Market Place' and 'Public Spaces' just as the Church has always sought to do!

So Mass will be available on our YouTube Channel (live and available all day every day), on our Website and on our Facebook Page beginning next Sunday - Pentecost Day (31st May) for Sunday Mass at 10.30am - may it be for us our moment of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit to encourage our Christian witness to the Risen Lord!

Special Donation Envelopes will be available in the Porch, if you have Gift Aid your donation is worth 25% more, so please add your existing Envelope Number or name!

From Pope Francis: 'Prayer assures us that things do not exist merely by chance, and that our relationship with God is the source of our great nobility'. I greet the English-speaking faithful joining us through the media. As we prepare to celebrate the Ascension of the Lord, I invoke upon you and your families the peace and joy that come from the Risen Christ. May God bless you! We are not insignificant, each and every person is the child of a Great King, our Heavenly Father...

In the midst of the pandemic of coronavirus worldwide, let us focus particularly on prayer. Two week ago, the Holy Father began to teach especially on prayer, noting that it is "a cry that arises from the hearts of those who trust in God," as he exhorted all faithful of the Church to embrace their prayer life in the current Pandemic.

Today the Pope recalled that "the first pages of the Bible resemble a great hymn of thanksgiving for the goodness and beauty of creation, whose grandeur awakens a sense of wonder within the human heart and a desire to pray."

The awe-inspiring immensity of creation stirs up in us a desire to contemplate the mystery of our own being. Though we may often experience the weight of our insignificance, we are not nothing. Prayer assures us that things do not exist merely by chance, and that our relationship with God is the source of our nobility. Men and women, by nature, may be almost nothing; yet by vocation, they are children of a great King. Amidst the difficulties and trials of life, prayer sustains our appreciation and gratitude, for it gives vigour to our hope. Remember the immense power of prayer, which helps us understand the value of our lives, hope is stronger than despair, and love is stronger than death.

For the simple joy of being alive, let us offer praise and thanks to our heavenly Father!